

# INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE

## GADGETS AND GIZMOS

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Reviewed:  
Philips Hue+

Reviewed :Bose  
soundTrue Ultra+

**+**  
Sweeten  
your deals



# BEST GADGETS FOR THIS FESTIVE SEASON



DCP No. F.2(I/I) Press/2009



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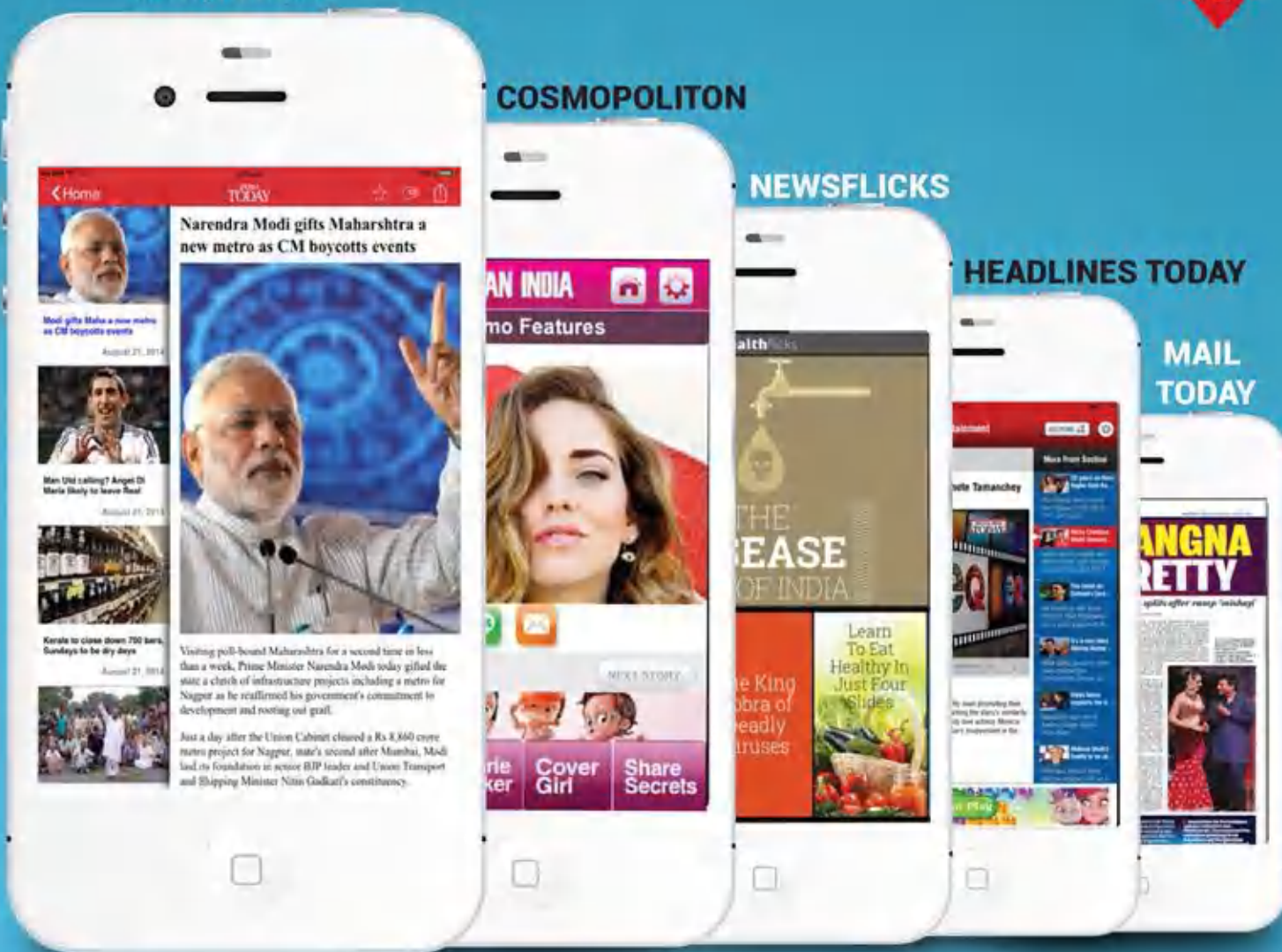
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## BEST GADGETS FOR THIS FESTIVE SEASON

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**I WANT TO PURCHASE A FITNESS BAND BUT DOESN'T WANT TO SPEND MUCH. I JUST WANT TO TRACK MY FOOTSTEPS AND SEE HOW ACTIVE I AM ON DAILY BASIS. ?**

**ANUP KUMAR** on email



You can buy the Xiaomi Mi Fit Band for Rs 999. It doesn't have a display but it works well. All the data is synced with the phone over the Mi Fit app. It also tracks your sleep. Other way to track the footstep is by using any of the fitness tracking apps available on the app stores. They do a decent job.



**I WANT TO BUY A PHONE IN THE PRICE RANGE OF RS 13,000. CAN YOU SUGGEST WHICH IS THE BEST AND WHICH ONE SHOULD I BUY? I WANT GREAT CAMERA AND A SLEEK LOOKING DEVICE. ?**

**RITIKA SHARMA**, on email



For Rs 13,000 you can choose between the Motorola Moto G 3rd generation or the Xiaomi Mi 4i. Both these smartphones are great in terms of performance and also the camera. However, between the two, the Xiaomi Mi 4i is sleek and looks good. You can also consider the Samsung Galaxy On7. This is a new smartphone from Samsung which will be available only on Flipkart.



**I WISH TO BUY A LED TV BUT MY BUDGET IS RS 30,000 ONLY. CAN YOU SUGGEST ME WHICH BRAND AND HOW MANY INCH TV CAN I GET IN THIS RANGE?**

**KRITIKA GOEL**, on email



Within Rs 30,000, you can get a 40inch LED TV from brands such as VU technologies and Micromax. If you want to go with brands such as LG, Samsung or Sony, you can get a 32inch LED TV. As it is festive season, you can easily get good deals on online portals such as Flipkart and Amazon. You can also avail cashback and exchange discounts.



## HELP AT HAND

Having trouble with your laptop? Would like to boost your cell phone's capabilities? Want advice on what camera is best for your needs? Write to us with all your queries and we will have experts answering them.

Email us at **helpGG@intoday.com**

# LETTERS



## SMART LIVES

The Luxury Home story in the October edition of Gadgets & Gizmos was a great read. I had watched such tech in Hollywood movies and it is good to know that we have such solutions in India too. The best is that we can actually have these fittings installed in our existing homes as well. Keep up the good work and continue to do such stories.

**ANSHUL GOEL**, on email

## INTERACT WITH G&G

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All comments and suggestions printed on this page may be edited for length and clarity.



# FIRST TAKE

## CUBE26 IOTA LITE BULB

**CUBE26** has launched a smart bulb called IOTA Lite. Powered by the Texas Instrument microprocessor, IOTA uses energy efficient Toshiba LEDs. Offering 500 lumens brightness, IOTA Lite is a 7W bulb. It can be controlled through the IOTA Lite app that is live on the Android Play Store. Through the app, the bulb can be paired using Bluetooth 4.0 technology. The IOTA Lite can be plugged into an existing fixture too. It has got some additional features such as weather alert, call/SMS alert, music sync and preset modes. Under preset modes, one can use it as mood lighting and choose from different modes such as reading, relaxation, party, etc. Users can also control the brightness of IOTA Lite using the app. There is also a scheduling feature for turning the bulb on and off. At one time, upto seven bulbs can be connected directly to a single smartphone. Cube26 claims that it is an energy efficient bulb with a life span of 15,000 hours.

Price: ₹1,899



## MICROMAX CANVAS 5

**THE HOME**-grown smartphone brand has announced the launch of its next flagship smartphone in India. Micromax has launched the Canvas 5 for ₹11,999, featuring a 5.2-inch Full HD IPS display. Equipped with a dual SIM, the Canvas 5 is powered by a 1.3 Ghz MT6753 octa-core processor and is paired with 3 GB of RAM. It comes with 16 GB of onboard storage space and runs on Android Lollipop operating system. There is a 13 MP rear camera and a 5 MP front-facing one. This is a 4G LTE enabled smartphone and comes with 2,900 mAh battery. This phone has got thin bezels and a leather-like back cover. The Canvas will compete against the recently launched Motorola Moto G 3rd generation.

Price: ₹11,999



## BAJAJ FINSERV APP

**BAJAJ FINSERV** has launched an instant loan approval app. The new EMI finance app from India's leading consumer durables finance company provides Instant Approval for loan up to ₹3 lakh. Available for consumers to download, the app offers documentation-free loan approval on the basis of keying in the PAN card or Aadhar card number. It can also access basic information once the app is linked with Gmail, Facebook or Twitter. According to Bajaj Finserv, this app approves a loan in 60 seconds for offline as well as online stores. While Bajaj Finserv has tied up with over 12,000 partners, including Croma, Vijay Sales and HomeTown, its online partners are limited at the moment.

Price: ₹1,999

## SAMSUNG GALAXY ON7

**KOREAN** giant Samsung has announced the launch of Galaxy On7 exclusively on Flipkart. It features a 5.5-inch HD (1280×720 pixels) display. It is powered by a 1.2 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 quad-core processor and paired with 1.5 GB of RAM. It features a 13 MP rear camera with a 5 MP front-facing camera and 8 GB of internal storage. There is a 3,000 mAh battery onboard and connectivity options include dual-SIM card slots, 4G LTE support, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n and Bluetooth 4.1. It runs on Android 5.1 Lollipop operating system.

Price: ₹10,990



## SNAPDEAL AUTOMOBILE

**SNAPDEAL** has announced the launch of Snapdeal Motors. This new offering will be an exclusive automobile platform allowing customers to browse through various automobiles, avail test drives and choose from a host of easy financing options and documentation support. Using this platform, one can get loan approvals in two minutes. At the time of the launch, Hero MotoCorp and Piaggio were available on the platform. The e-commerce giant plans to bring Mahindra, Suzuki and Datsun to the platform soon.

## LENOVO P1

**THE LENOVO P1** features a 5.5-inch full HD IPS display with Corning Gorilla Glass 3. It is powered by a 1.5 GHz Snapdragon 615 64-bit octa-core processor and is paired with 2 GB of RAM. It has got 32 GB of internal storage and supports expandable memory of up to 128 GB. There is a 13 MP rear camera with dual colour flash and face detection, a 5 MP front-facing camera and a 5,000 mAh battery that will last close to two days, as per the company. It also has a finger print sensor and supports 4G LTE. The Vibe P1 is priced at ₹15,999 and will be available through open sale.

Price: ₹15,999



## ONEPLUS X

**THE ONEPLUS X** features a 5-inch full HD AMOLED display with Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protection. It is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor and paired with 3 GB of RAM. It will run on Oxygen OS based on Android 5.1 and will have 16 GB internal storage with support for expandable memory. This is a dual-SIM smartphone where the secondary SIM slot doubles up as the memory card slot too. It has got a 13 MP rear camera and 2,525 mAh battery.

Price: ₹16,999



## POLAROID CUBE

**THE POLAROID CUBE** is a compact action camera capable of capturing videos at 1080p and 720p resolution. It also features a 6 MP still camera. It has got a 124-degree wide angle lens and a battery life of 1.5 hours. It is priced at ₹9,999. It will be available exclusively on Flipkart.

Price: ₹9,999




## VIDEOCON LED TV

**VIDEOCON**, in partnership with Microsoft, has launched LED TVs powered by Windows 10, starting at ₹39,990. These Windows-powered TVs can also be used as personal computers.

The company has launched Windows LED TVs in two sizes – 40 inch and 32 inch – and these panels are priced at ₹52,990 and ₹39,990, respectively.

Price: ₹39,990 onwards



COVER STORY

# BEST GIFTS TO LIGHT UP YOUR FESTIVE SEASON

Some cool gadgets that will make great gifts for friends and family.

By Nidhi Singal

RAJ VERMA





**F**estive season is just round the corner and we know that it is really difficult to think of some cool tech gifts for your loved ones. With a plenty of gadgets being launched every now and then, there are ones that suit any particular need. If you haven't given much thought about the gifts, we have done the homework for you. Here is the list of some cool gadgets that will make a great gift for you and your loved ones.





## COVER STORY



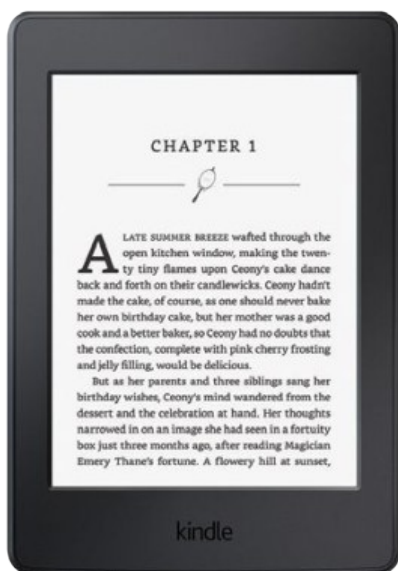
### ◀ APPLE IPHONE 6S ₹62,000

That's one gadget that many love to flaunt. Apple has launched its latest iPhones in India starting with the price tag of ₹62,000 for the 4.7-inch iPhone 6S 16GB variant. While the looks aren't different from the earlier version, there is a significant improvement in terms of performance, camera and even battery.



### GOOGLE NEXUS 5X ▶ ₹29,990

Nexus smartphones come from Google but the company doesn't manufacture them. This year, the Nexus 5x has been made by LG. This is one fine piece of hardware. It works smoothly, without any lag and the camera is superb. A must buy if your budget is Rs 30,000.



### ◀ AMAZON KINDLE PAPERWHITE ₹8,999

An ideal gift for any book lover will be the Kindle PaperWhite. This sleek piece of hardware can allow you to carry thousands of books in one go and you can continue to indulge in your passion wherever you are. The battery backup too is superb as it lasts weeks without the need to charge is frequently. Kindle = love for reading books.



## ◀ **PORTRONICS SOUNDPOT**

**₹1,499**

This compact Bluetooth speaker is for music on the go. Those who love to listen to music will love this cute looking compact speaker too. It has got great sound and youngsters will love it.

## **XIAOMI MI BAND ▶**

**₹999**

Fitness bands are a fad these days and if you are looking for a great band that doesn't cost much then the Mi Band is just perfect. It doesn't have a display but it works with the Mi Fit app that you will install on your smartphone. It

will accurately track your footstep, sleep and will keep you updated about your daily physical activity. For ₹999, this is worth it. If you are serious about your fitness and are willing to spend a bit more, consider Goqii, a fitness band that comes with app based coaching by experts but it involves monthly charges for coaching.



## ◀ **GRIP TIGHT GORILLAPOD STAND**

**\$29.95**

Thanks to the powerful cameras in smartphones, we all have turned into photographers. But one thing many of us often miss is a great tripod stand for mobile phones. The Grip Tight GorillaPod stand is just ideal for any smartphone. It can hold the smartphone firmly and the stand can be placed on a flat surface or can be tied around joints or any surface. It also has a durable polycarbonate-ABS plastic construction with steel internal structure designed to survive the wear and tear of everyday use.

## COVER STORY



### ◀ SELFIE STICK ₹250 ONWARDS

Selfies are the rage these days and people have moved beyond just stretching the hand to capture one. Selfie sticks manufactured in China are available at dearth cheap prices on online portals as well the offline retail shops. But what you should consider is buying a good selfie stick with Bluetooth capability. So what it does is it connects with your smartphone over Bluetooth and just with the click of a button on the stick, it captures images. This works smoothly and captures better selfies.

### ▶ PORTRONICS MOJO ₹899

This is a multitasking compact device as it acts as a torch as well as a powerbank. The Mojo is equipped with a 2600mAh battery that can be used to provide juice to any smartphone when in need. And it comes handy as a powerful torch too. It has got four high intensity flash settings too. The Mojo, once charged, keeps the charge for more than six months if not used.



### ◀ ONEPLUS POWER BANK ₹1,400

The one in black standstone finish is inspired by the OnePlus One smartphone. It has got a 10000mAh battery that is capable of charging over three smartphones. The 10000mAh battery takes around 6 hours to charge fully and has got two USB ports for charging two devices at the same time. It has not got any buttons yet there are LED indicators that shows how much battery is left on the Power Bank.





### ◀ **OPPOCLIP 4-IN-1 LENS**

**\$79.99**

Smartphones are being equipped with powerful cameras and are being used for professional shoots too. Enhance your loved ones imaging experience by gifting them OlloClip for their smartphone. Designed for iPhone and a select Android phones, it includes four lens options – fisheye, wide-angle, 10x macro and 15x macro. Works well with photos and videos, Professional-style lenses give you creative options Lightweight, compact design works on both front and rear-facing cameras.



### **OSTER WINE CHILLER ▶**

**₹5,847**

This stainless steel single bottle electric wine chiller has an opener as well as a recharging base. It removes the cork at the touch of a button and can open up to 30 bottles on a single charge. It keep bottles chilled for a couple of hours. The base helps recharge the bottle opener.



### ◀ **ENGR PRISM**

**₹4990 + ₹1990**

Mood lighting is the new concept these days and Engr is offering one at a much affordable price in comparison to Philips Hue. The lights can emanate RGB LED Lighting colours and the bulbs can be controlled using WiFi router and the remote accompanied with the lights. You can control multiple LED bulbs using the app installed on your smartphone and play around with mood lighting functions. The kit comprises 3 LED bulbs, one remote and one router.



## COVER STORY



### ◀ EUREKA FORBES AIR GLO ₹1350

Indoor air purification made easy with Aeroguard Clean Air Go from Eureka Forbes. Eureka Forbes Aeroguard Clean Air Go is an affordable LED bulb with built-in ionizers, which the company claims eliminate smoke, odour, airborne allergens while creating a healthy environment. This is a 5W LED bulb with a wick (like a thin brush) sitting on the top that is capable of realising negative ions in the air. When turned on, the bulb releases negative ions in the air. It works in a simple way as the negative ions push odour, allergens, etc. that have positive charge to attract and stick to each other and are then disintegrated. The terms negative and positive here work in a reversed way. Technically, negative ions are odourless and have an extra charged electron. This helps in cleaning the air and is used in many air purifiers too.

### ASUS LOLLIFLASH ▶ ₹899

This is ideal for someone who is fond of taking selfies. Compact and weighing 8 grams, this connects through the phone's 3.5mm jack and offers more light while capturing selfies. It has got a microUSB port for charging. A 30 minute charge can give up to 3000 flashes.



### ◀ BELKIN ROCKSTAR MULTI HEADPHONE SPLITTER ₹899

For some, enjoying music is not just listening alone but is all about sharing and listening with friends. While you can connect just one headphone to a smartphone using 3.5mm port, there are headphone splitters that allow you to connect multiple headphones to a single phone conveniently. Belkin's Rockstar multi-headphone splitter can connect up to 5 headphones to a single device. You can also consider local headphone splitters that will come for a few hundred bucks.



## ◀ LOGITECH BLUETOOTH ADAPTER ₹1200

This might sound weird to you but this Bluetooth adapter is for those gadgets that don't have Bluetooth connectivity. The old speakers that you brought many years ago aren't redundant if you add a Bluetooth adapter to it as it will now be able to play music wirelessly. Using it is easy too as it has to be connected to power, and also to the speaker, using a 3.5mm jack or the RCA connector.

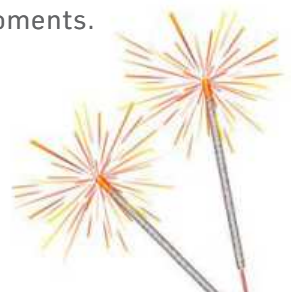
## CABLE MANAGEMENT ▶

With a number of gadgets at your disposal, the most annoying is the clutter of wires you have in your room. A cable management kit will be a good buy as it will not only hold the wires in the grooves but will also club them neatly. There are cable holder clips organiser easily available online that contains the set of 6 and comes for ₹155 only.



## ◀ XIAOMI YI ACTION CAMERA ₹6,999

DSLRs are great at capturing images and videos but there is a new category of camera that is growing at a fast pace. While most of the action cameras are expensive, Xiaomi's Yi Action camera is a compact, toy looking action camera. It has got 16MP CMOS F2.8 155° Wide Angle and optical image stabilizer. Operated through an app, the Yi Action camera creates its own WiFi and connects with the phone. A nice, affordable action camera for capturing some special moments.





## COVER STORY



### ◀ IROBOT BRAAVA

₹27,900

iRobot is one of the best selling names in home cleaning robots abroad and the company is now selling its selected models in India too. The iRobot Braava is a floor mopping robot that uses dry or damp cloth to clean up the dirt, grime, dust and smudges with a press of a button. It can be used to clean hard surfaces including Tile, Vinyl, Hardwood and Laminate. Priced at ₹27,900, it silently does the job, without disturbing you.

### VU 40 INCH LED TV ▶

₹23,990

Companies such as VU and Micromax are launching LED TVs at a more economical price in comparison to what the leading brands such as Sony, Samsung and LG are offering. The VU 40 inch LED TV is available online and makes it a great deal. Available for ₹23,990, this full HD flat panel TV offers rich colours and great clarity. It has got 2HDMI ports and 2 USB ports. The sound output is powerful too. Available on Flipkart, you need not even worry about delivery. Just place the order and the flat panel will be delivered at the doorstep.



### ◀ WD MY PASSPORT ULTRA 1TB

₹4,000

Know people who have loads of content on their laptop? A WD My Passport Ultra 1TB will be an ideal gift for them to back up all their data. It is a sleek looking portable storage device that will be 2.5 inch thick and can offer data transfer speeds up to 5 GB/s. It has got USB 3.0 connectivity.





## ◀ **XIAOMI MI PAD** ₹12,999

Tablets are aplenty but Xiaomi Mi Pad is a great value for money tablet for your loved ones. This 7.9 inch tablet has got a plastic back that doesn't feel cheap. It is powered by Nvidia Tegra K1 processor and is paired with 2GB of RAM. It has also got an 8MP camera for capturing images. Streaming videos is a great experience as the display brightness is superb and the sound output is loud. The battery backup too is impressive. It will help in bringing a smile on your loved one's face.

## **AUTOMATIC WINE PRESERVE PUMP ▶** ₹1,999

Wine lovers often face the challenge of either finishing the whole bottle of wine or end up losing its flavour when exposed to the air. If you know a wine lover, you can present them the Automatic Wine Vacuum Pump that will pump the air out of the wine bottle and seal the flavour inside.



## ◀ **NIKON SPORT LITE 8X25 DCF** ₹4,950

This is one gift everyone would love to have. The Nikon Sport Lite Binoculars is compact and lightweight. It has rubber coating for a comfortable grip and multi-layered coating on the lenses for bright images.

COVER STORY

FREE DELIVERY

*DISCOUNT 65%*

BIG BILLION SALE



FESTIVE  
SALES

CASH ON DELIVERY

# SWEETEN Your e-Deals

Shopping online this festive season can be  
fun if you read the fine print carefully.

By Nidhi Singal

RAJ VERMA

*Sale*

UP TO 25% DISCOUNT

BIG BILLION SALE





# It's

truly getting exciting this festive season with Apple's new iPhones topping the charts, closely followed by Samsung's curved ultraHD TV and the convertible laptops from Lenovo, among a host of other new launches and great deals across categories. But, there's more to the fun and frolic as it is raining discounts from e-commerce giants such as Flipkart, Snapdeal and Amazon. Besides, promises of quick and hassle-free delivery, easy payment options and no-questions-asked refund and return policies are only making the festivities a lot more rewarding. However, don't get blinded by the excitement. Read the fine print carefully and compare the prices across portals to sweeten your deal further.

## Use Incognito Browser

Online shopping involves your bank account details for making payments. In the process, there's a possibility that you are leaving a digital trail of your finances as you go along. To ensure your account details are not compromised, use the 'incognito' or 'private' mode on your web browser to erase the digital footprint as soon as you close the browser. The incognito mode prevents the browser from saving the surfing history and gets rid of all cookies once the browser is closed.

## Install App

A rise in sales on mobile apps has prompted many e-commerce sites including Myntra to go app-only. Flipkart has also shut down its mobile browser page. You can either shop on their desktop site or through the app. In fact, Flipkart's Big Billion Day Sale that offered huge discounts was only for those who logged into the Flipkart app. Other players too are offering special app-only deals and discounts. Therefore, it makes sense to have the latest version of the app installed on your smartphone even before you start browsing.

## Compare Price across Sites

The thumb rule of online shopping is to cross-check prices of products that you wish to buy across various e-commerce websites. There are possibilities that even the maximum retail price of branded as well as unbranded products might be different, and you might end up buying a product at a price far higher than the maximum retail price.

Some online portals often claim **free delivery** over a minimum order of ₹499. But this need not be true.

### Inflated Price/Discounts

You should never go by the percentage of discount offered on any e-commerce site as these are calculated on the maximum retail price and not on the market operating price. The market operating price of gadgets is usually lower than the MRP. For instance, the maximum retail price of Samsung Galaxy S 6 was ₹49,900 at the time of the launch, while the current market operating price is ₹36,900. Some websites have listed the price as ₹49,900 and the discounted price as ₹36,900, which isn't actually true.

### Warranty

While shopping for a product, you should always check the warranty details. There are chances that the products might belong to the grey market and instead of the manufacturer, it is the seller offering warranty on the products. In such a scenario, if something goes wrong, the product will not be repaired by the company's authorised service centres. Chances are that even the seller might refuse to repair the product at a later date.

actual product is about. Also, reviews give a clear indication of how good a product is – quality as well as the performance. This comes really handy when buying home appliances such as a steam iron, washing machine, mixer grinder, etc., because you will never get access to any expert reviews on such products, and have to always depend on the specifications and product description listed by the company. It also lets you know how old the product is. To get rid of old stock, some sellers update the same on e-commerce platforms.

In certain cases, if the product is too old, the company does not offer any service support or warranty. Also, if the product is too old, it might be difficult to get it repaired in case something goes wrong, because spare parts might not be available.

### Seller Review

Some of the popular e-commerce sites act as a marketplace. They don't stock the product and sell it directly. Instead, they list the products from various sellers and closely monitor the order till the time it is delivered. Therefore, it is important to check the seller's rating and reviews, which are based on user experiences and feedback on their purchases. This helps in understanding how good the particular seller is in meeting client expectations. You should prefer a seller with a higher rating over the one with a lower rating. In some cases, sellers do offer a better discount or price, but take longer to ship the product or may even send you a used product.

### Exchange/Return/Refund

The biggest advantage of shopping online is not about the comfort of ordering and receiving a product, but the ease of returning and refund that e-commerce players offer. But, this may not be the case during festive sales. Always check the exchange or return policy of a product before buying it during a festive sale. If it highlights an exchange offer in case of a faulty product, all you will get is a replacement and not a refund.

Says Jayant Sood, Chief Customer Experience Officer, Snapdeal: "We do business as usual during the festive sales. Our standard policies on refund and return apply throughout the year so that our customers are never inconvenienced. We recently

### Product Review

Always check the user review before buying a product because, at times, the specifications listed on an e-commerce site are different from what the



launched the instant refund facility. This will help customers get refunds within one hour of receiving the returned product. Snapdeal is the first to introduce an automated, API-based, real-time, highly reliable, secure instant refund transfer system based on IMPS technology with one of largest private banks of India.”

### Hidden Charges

Some online portals often claim-free delivery for a minimum order of ₹499. But this need not be true. In certain cases, these online portals charge for delivery even if the order is above the minimum stated amount. Also, you might have to pay delivery charges varying between ₹50 and ₹150, or more. Further, you might be asked to pay for the number of items, even if it is part of the same order. For instance, if you order three deodorants, you may have to pay delivery charges for each of them.

### Coupons and Cashbacks

There are plenty of deals and discounts listed on the websites. But you can further sweeten the deal by looking for discount coupons. Websites such as Coupon-Dunia and Groupon specialise in deals and offers across various products and websites. They also list their own special offers that users can avail. Browse through such websites before making your purchase; you might end up paying a lot less than what you would on e-commerce websites. Another way to save money is to use cashback options offered on a few select credit cards.

### Payment

All online sellers accept various modes of payment – cash-on-delivery, debit card, credit card, net-banking and e-wallets. For instance, Snapdeal has linked its payment through FreeCharge balance, Flipkart has got its own wallet and eBay has tied up with PaisaPay.

Sometimes, while making payment through netbanking, if the transactions get cancelled and the amount gets deducted from your account, you may have to chase both the website as well as your bank to get a refund. The safer alternative is to pay using wallets so that if anything goes wrong, the website will track the order status and help in claiming the refund.



### Shipping and Delivery Date

Before making the payment, always check the time frame the seller would take to ship and deliver the product. Yes, shipping and delivery dates are not the same. Shipment date is when the order is dispatched and the delivery date is when you receive the order. You might receive the product the very next day or after 15 days. Also, websites such as Flipkart and Amazon are offering faster delivery options for a fee.



### Received a Brick?

Of late, there have been cases where customers have complained about receiving a brick or tile instead of a smartphone or a laptop. Considering the increasing number of such cases and issues with logistics, the best would be to unpack the box in front of the delivery boy. You can also record a video with your smartphone while unpacking the box so that you have proof to claim your refund. ♦

@nidhisingal



# TEST BENCH

## Colour Changing LEDs

Internet of Things' is the buzz word today and Philips takes you one step closer to this reality. Its latest offering, the Philips Hue, allows you to control the lightbulb through your smartphone.

The starter kit shared for review includes three LED bulbs along with a Hue Bridge, a power cable and a LAN cable. The box had a fancy packaging with instructions on how to set up the Hue.

The first thing I had to do was connect the router bundled in the box with the WiFi router placed at home using a LAN cable. After that, I placed the Philips

LED lamps in the existing lamp holder and installed the Philips Hue lighting app on my Android smartphone. The app instantly searched for the Philips router and paired with it. Only after pairing was it able to control the Hue LED lamps.

Using the app, you can either select from the preset modes or

change the colour and brightness of the bulbs as per your need. Preset modes include sunset, pencil, deep sea, Kathy, relax, concentrate, beach, etc. Selecting the preset mode instantly changes the colour of the lamps. It allows you to monitor lights, adjust brightness and turn the lights off remotely, only when the app



**BAG IT OR  
JUNK IT:**

A great colour  
changing solution,  
but comes at a  
price.



PHILIPS HUE

₹16,995

**Plus:** Colour changing lamps

**Minus:** Price



is connected to the Hue Bridge. Interestingly, the colours and brightness of these bulbs can be changed and controlled individually. It also had a feature to set timers and alarms by which the lighting would be changed before you get up in the morning. The Philips Hue Connected light bulbs actually put 16 million colours

right at your fingertips. While testing, the app did freeze a couple of times and I had to force-shut the app.

The Philips Hue colour changing LED lamps can completely change the look of your office or home. While only three bulbs are bundled into the starter kit, one can pair up to 50 bulbs to a single

bridge. But, the high price tag is something I am slightly worried about as Enrg and Cube26 are offering similar features at a lower cost, in comparison to what Philips is offering. Yet another concern I had with the Hue was its constant pairing with the Bridge that had been connected through the LAN cable.

# Music to Ears

**T**he recent addition to Bose's headphone offering is SoundTrue Ultra, priced at ₹11,138. Is it worth the money?

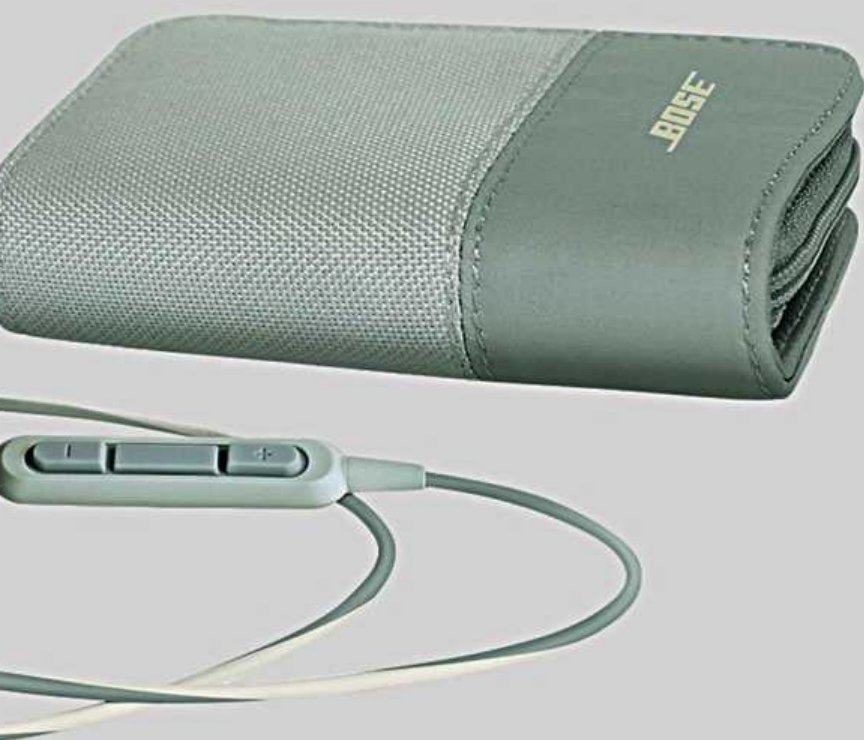
Last year, Bose had launched Free Style in-ear headphones and this year, the company has upgraded its line-up with SoundTrue Ultra headphones. This one is special for Bose as it is the company's first noise-isolation in-ear headphone launched in India. And it does work. Bose has crafted these headphones in such a way that the StayHear Ultra tips offer a good fit. It also rests on the outside of the ear canal and not the inside, resulting in acoustic seal.

The SoundTrue Ultra is not common for all smartphones. The company has designed two headphones – one for iOS users and the other for Android. My review unit in black was designed for Samsung Android smartphones, at least that's what the box said. And I tested it with the Samsung Galaxy Note 5. The build of the headphone is impressive. Instead of the regular Y cable that most headphones have, Bose has adopted a different approach with a T joint that doesn't interfere with body movements. Bose has also added a three-button inline remote along with a microphone. Neatly packed, the headphones are

**BAG IT OR  
JUNK IT:**  
The Bose SoundTrue  
Ultra is a great  
in-ear headphone







BOSE SOUNDTRUE ULTRA  
₹11,138

**Plus:** Comfortable to wear, Noise isolation

**Minus:** Price

accompanied with a compact pouch that can be used to store the headphones when not in use.

The sound output of the Bose SoundTrue Ultra is truly impressive. Music sounds good on these headphones. The vocals were loud and clear and I could feel the beats too. The noise isolation works well while listening to music and also while answering calls when in noisy surroundings. The inline remote helped in answering calls as well as playing and pausing the music when pressed once. Pressing twice leads to skipping a track forward and pressing thrice lets you skip a track backwards.

I usually prefer over-the-ear headphones, but the Bose SoundTrue Ultra changed my preference. This headphone sits comfortably in the ear. I could continue to wear it for long stretches.

# Treat for your Eyes

Since the last couple of years, 4K resolution has dominated the television space. This year, it is the Android TV software that's making headlines. Sony has launched its Android-powered TV in India which was unveiled earlier this year at CES, Las Vegas. But, is the 50-inch flat panel TV worth ₹1,32,900?

Unboxing this LED TV was a task in itself. The tablet mount,

that we usually install ourselves to set up the TV, was very complicated. After looking at the manual for a few minutes, we were able to set up the TV. You need not worry, because if you plan to buy this, the installation will be handled by professionals from Sony.

It is a sleek looking television set and has got dual acoustic duct woofer at the bottom of the panel. The duct has two 10W speakers and dual subwoofers. The panel

is sleek – 12.6mm on the top and it goes to 70mm. There are four HDMI ports, two USB ports, an Ethernet port, digital and analogue output ports, RF and composite port at the rear of the panel.

It is a smart TV with built-in Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi Direct, DLNA, MHL and Bluetooth connectivity. The TV has got an internal storage of 16 GB of which only close to 8 GB is accessible for users.



**BAG IT OR  
JUNK IT:**  
Slightly expensive,  
but then the  
experience counts.



SONY 50W950C  
₹1,32,900

**Plus:** Android OS, Sound, Visual clarity

**Minus:** Limited internal storage

The 50W950C is the first Sony TV to have Android TV OS that offers smart functionality. The homescreen is user friendly. There is a prominent search bar on the top of the screen for searching almost everything or one could also use the voice search that works well – be it for launching the app or playing video on YouTube.

There is also a Cast feature replicating the functionality of Google Chromecast. Apps and

games can be downloaded from the PlayStore. While accessing smart functionality on this TV, your broadband connection plays a major role in enhancing the overall experience. Sony has provided a few add-ons to this TV. My favourite is the Bravia Notify which when paired with the smartphone, displays notifications on the larger screen. This included calls as well as the messages.

Talking about picture quality

and sound, the 50W950C scores well on both fronts. The image quality is superb and the content appears crisp. The colours appear are bright on this full HD TV. It offers great viewing angles and there isn't any motion-blur visible to the eyes.

The sound quality from the dual speakers and the subwoofer complements the TV viewing experience, especially while watching movies or playing games.



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